

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants propose amending Claim 41 and canceling Claim 53 as follows, all without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article, comprising:

(a) a front portion including opposing first and second lateral side portions defining respective first and second lateral side edges, and a central section defining a fastening area between the first and second lateral side portions, first and second fault lines being disposed between the fastening area and the respective first and second lateral side portions;

(b) a rear portion including an outer rear edge, the first and second fault lines being configured for activation to selectively release the front portion from the rear portion for use of the personal care absorbent article as a diaper-like article;

(c) a crotch portion extending between said front portion and said rear portion; and

(d) first and second fasteners releasably secured to the fastening area, and non-releasably secured to the front portion without penetrating the front portion, the first and second fasteners being spaced apart from the first and second lateral side edges of the front portion and spaced axially apart from a waist opening and from respective leg openings, the first and second fasteners being adjustable in the fastening area without activation of the first and second fault lines.

42. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein said fault lines are cut lines having no front portion material extending across the fault lines.

43. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein said fault lines comprise lines of perforations.

44. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein said fasteners comprise hook-type fasteners engageable with loop material at said fastening area.

45. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41, said first and second fasteners providing at least partial support of integrity of the front portion across the fault lines.

46. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein the fastening area comprises a separate and distinct patch of fastening material (40) affixed to an underlying web (26).

47. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein the fastening area is integral with a front surface of the central section (61) of the front portion.

48. (Cancelled.)

49. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41, a floating portion of each said fastener being disposed, from the respective fault line, inwardly toward a central portion of said front portion, and being unattached to said front portion inwardly of the respective fault line.

50. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein each said fault line comprises an array of apertures representing removal of bits of web material.

51. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein each said fault line comprises material of said front portion crushed in a line pattern.

52. (Previously Presented) A personal care article as in Claim 41 wherein said lateral side portions are breakably attached to said central section along said fault lines.

53. (Canceled).